

## ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A sheet feeder includes a sheet mounting plate, pick-up roller, drive motor and transmission device to prevent an excessive load from being applied to a pick-up roller when no sheets are mounted on a sheet mounting plate. When the sheets on the sheet mounting plate run out, a sheet detecting actuator of the sheet feeder fits into an opening formed on the sheet mounting plate. Accordingly, a protrusion of a drive actuator slides along a groove formed on the sheet detecting actuator, which causes the drive actuator and a drive interrupting boss to move. With this structure, transmission of drive force to the pick-up roller is interrupted.